

THE BLURB VER. 2.0

AUGUST 2014

NEWSLETTER OF THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB

Happy Birthday ARRL!



PMRC President and XYL Penny Attend the ARRL Centennial Convention and visit HQ.

This past month marked the 100th Anniversary of our beloved American Radio Relay League and a delegation consisting of our President and his long suffering XYL had the good fortune to attend. They were joined by several thousand other enthusiastic, energetic hams from all over the World!

If you have any thoughts that Amateur Radio is on the decline, forget it! This Convention, the World Class Speakers presented, and

the Seminars offered there were nothing less than outstanding and you could not help but come away reener-

gized and with an even greater love of our Hobby.

In addition to all that the event included a large indoor Hamfest with hundreds of vendors including all the major players. An indoor Flea Market including items from the ARRL Lab was also offered, as well as a sumptuous Luncheon that featured an absolutely awe inspiring address by noted DXer and Attorney Rick Roderick (K5UR). Rick's speech brought laughter and tears from those in attendance. Joe Taylor (K1JT) also addressed the capacity crowd.

Photos and more details from the event can be found on [Page 17](#).



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- **Our Own Bob W3NE Presents the First of the "Scientific Triumvirate"**
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- **Birthdays and Tidbytes**
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* [Click LINKS in this Publication to see More Information](#)

Steve WU3I Honored by Rooster Net

The Rooster Net bestowed its highest honor to our own **Steve Hoch (WU3I)** recently. Steve was named "Rooster of the Year" at the Rooster picnic held in Mont Clare, PA.

The awards committee cited Steve's long time

association with the Organization, his loyal and reliable Net Control service, and his lifetime of helping other Hams putting up, repairing, and improving their antenna systems. Steve is the kind of guy that when you ask him if he will help put up an antenna for an elderly

Ham his only response is: when? He exemplifies everything Ham Radio is about—sharing knowledge, helping others, and building strong relationships with other Hams.

Congratulations Steve!

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The Scientific Triumvirate —Volta-Ampere-Ohm

In the Beginning . . .

Alessandro Volta

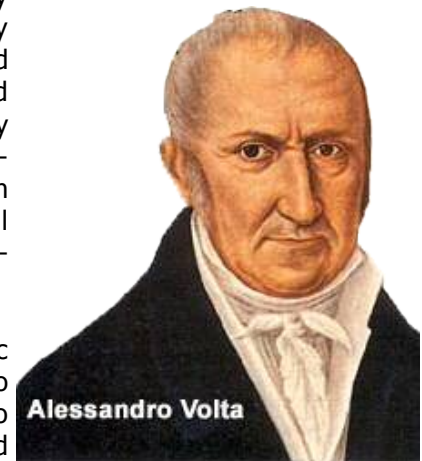
By Bob Thomas, W3NE

We tend to go merrily along in this hobby with scant appreciation for what has gone before that has made it all possible. Sure, we know a smattering about Morse, Marconi, Edison and other “big names” in the field, but where and when did our lofty circumstances of today actually begin? Who initiated the progression of scientific thought and investigation that started to propel us to where we are now? The answers to those questions are really quite simple: For all practical purposes the *science* of electricity, which eventually led to what we know as electronics, was founded in Italy at the end of the eighteenth century by the man who is the subject of this article.

Alessandro Giuseppe Antonio Anastasio Volta was born to a noble family on February 18, 1749 in the northern Italian city of Como. When the boy was only seven years old his father died, and only then was it learned that the family was deeply in debt. However, some of his uncles guided the young Alessandro’s education, first in law studies, but eventually supporting him as he followed his inclinations toward science, particularly chemistry and electricity. He became Lecturer at the Royal School in Como and subsequently was promoted to Professor of Experimental Physics, a position that set him on a life-long trajectory of primal scientific discovery and invention.

Early conceptions of electricity were confined to elementary electrostatic phenomena and related scientific curiosities. That led Volta in 1775 to invent the *electrophorus*, an electrostatic device constructed with two movable plates separated by an insulator (a *dielectric*). Although he did not pursue practical applications for his electrophorus, he did use it to demonstrate principles of the transfer of electrostatic charges and storage of a charge in an insulator, capabilities that enabled Volta to postulate many theories which were applied later by other scientists in development of practical charge-storage devices that we now know as *capacitors*!

The versatile Alessandro Volta temporarily set aside his interests in electricity for a short interval in 1776 while he studied the chemistry of gases. During that brief foray he perfected an instrument called a *eudiometer* to improve its accuracy in determining the constituents of gasses. Using his refined version, Volta was the first to discover that air is comprised of twenty-one percent oxygen. However, his most significant contribution to chemistry was discovery and analysis of methane gas. That effort resulted in demand for his lectures and conferences in several European countries and ultimately appointment as Professor of Experimental Physics at the University of Pavia, setting



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the stage for his next, and most influential discoveries of all.

During the 1790s Luigi Galvani, an Italian physician of high repute experimented with stimulation of frogs' legs with static electricity. When he applied a static charge to a nerve in a frog's leg its muscle twitched, demonstrating for the first time the effect of electricity in live organisms. Based on those and other early studies, Galvani concluded, erroneously, three types of electricity existed: Natural (lightening), Artificial (static electricity), and Animal (associated with living tissue). He attributed the latter effect to an "electric fluid" that flowed through nerves to control muscles, a theory that was adopted by many other scientists of the day.



Volta was skeptical of all "animal electricity" theories but arranged for a visit to Galvani's laboratory so he could personally observe the experiments. In the course of demonstrating how a frog's leg responded to a static electric charge, Galvani also showed Volta the way a similar twitching effect could be obtained with no static charge at all, by merely touching a nerve fiber with two probes made of dissimilar metals.

In a brilliant stroke of insight, Volta reasoned that the two probes of different metals placed on the frog's nerve were, by themselves, somehow generating an electric force that caused the stimulation, and that it had nothing to do with an imagined "animal electricity." That did not sway Galvani or the many others who clung to their unsupported suppositions, and heated debate ensued throughout the scientific community.

Alessandro returned to his own lab where he conducted numerous tests with various combinations of metals immersed in a variety of fluids. As part of his investigations he even evaluated the sensation created when various combinations of metals were simultaneously touched to his tongue! An early result of those tests was creation of an elementary chart that listed different metals in the order of their tendency, when submerged together in a fluid, to cause a current flow through an external path. Furthermore, Volta proved that the farther apart any two metals were on his list, the greater would be the electric reaction they created when used together in a moist environment. His chart, in its expanded and refined form is now known, ironically, as the *Galvanic Series*. It is employed throughout modern industry for selection of metals and their surface treatment to minimize to corrosion in damp environments.

Volta's fertile mind did not rest with the mere compilation of relative electrical activity of metals. He next applied his groundbreaking principles to an ingenious practical application by placing a piece of silver and another one of zinc in a wine goblet filled with brine to show how the combination would produce an electric force capable of generating a spark in an external circuit. That somewhat cumbersome first step was rapidly supplanted when he constructed a pile of alternating zinc and copper discs separated by layers of porous paper saturated with a saline solution. built upon his singular achievement.

Volta (continued)



The stack of cells was initially known as a "Volta Pile." They immediately began appearing in laboratories throughout Europe, made with various numbers of cells supported by insulating rods to prevent the pile from collapsing. It didn't take long to learn that piles with more than twenty cells could produce enough potential to cause an electric shock to a person when both terminals were touched. Although Volta's name gradually disappeared from his invention, a derivative of the pile concept still appears in modern terminology where some languages still identify batteries as *pils*.

It's not surprising that Alessandro Volta has been immortalized more prolifically than any other person, by virtue of his extraordinary gift to humanity, by naming the unit of electromotive force in his honor. Just think of it! Every textbook on electric phenomena, every modern circuit description, appliance type plate, light bulb(!) and of course every battery, carries the man's name. *Volt*, *voltage*, and all the other terms we so easily toss about are all derived from the name of that brilliant Italian scientist who virtually founded modern electrical technology so many years ago when others had only the vaguest idea of the true nature of electricity. We should all pause and think about that once in a while.

Bob Thomas W3NE

You can reach Bob at: W3NE@Comcast.net

Attention all PMRC Members and Other Interested Parties

FALL IS FOX HUNTING TIME!!

The last time PMRC had a Fox Hunt was...ah...ummmmm...well....it was a LONG, LONG time ago! I hear fire had just been discovered. Be that as it may, we are having a Fox Hunt in October! The Fox (transmitters) have been acquired, assembled, and tested, and arrangements are being made to hold the event in Fort Washington State Park, the same Park we use for our Field Day.



We will have expert help in the form of an experienced "[Master of the Hunt](#)" and we will publish the rules well in advance. This will be a pedestrian hunt (all contestants on foot) and the search area will be confined to the Park itself. Although the Fox could be ANYWHERE in the park, and I do mean ANYWHERE.

And there will be prizes!

As soon as a date has been set an announcement will be made, and even if you want to just come out and watch the fun please make plans to attend. An informal luncheon will be held afterward for those who want to stay and have a bite to eat together.

Anyone interested please email me [here](#), or call Fred at (610)-310-2877!



Rookie Radio

Editors Note:

Susan has bravely consented to share her experiences as a newly minted Ham in this venue to help and encourage others. POSITIVE comments are always welcome. Ed.

My Journey into the World of Ham Radio

I have been given this opportunity to share with you the experience of attaining a Technician's license (from a female's point of view) as well as setting up a rig and getting on the air. To give you some background and the scope of my ham radio knowledge it extends to ... walkie talkies. I didn't know anyone with Ham Radio experience and didn't have any exposure; nonetheless the hobby had always interested me from a distance but never had the time to explore it until two years ago.

After researching and reading articles, I came to the conclusion that all I needed was an understanding of key concepts involved in radio communications. Alright, can't be too difficult. My next stop was to purchase the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual. There were several places where you can purchase the manual and I bought mine at Barnes & Noble for about \$20.00.

After skimming through the manual my first thought was, this is going to be a monumental endeavor! So not to be overwhelmed I reasoned that you start at the beginning, one page at a time. I read each chapter and then took the practice test at the end of each chapter. I also found the exam questions online which was helpful as they graded each test. I'm not sure if it's the exact website but it is similar to what I used: <http://hamexam.org/exam/12-Technician>

There were parts that I admit were extremely boring and I had a difficult time grasping the information. Chapter 3 was particularly challenging and that was the point when I started to get discouraged. This chapter covered resistors, capacitors, diodes and transistors, and schematic diagrams. What did I care, give me a radio and let me get on the air. I understand the information is to give you an understanding of the radio, but really how often was I going to be reading a schematic when operating a rig? [\(More often than you think! Ed.\)](#)

That's when, by chance I had a conversation with an "old timer" to the hobby and it was his encouragement to "stay with it" that kept me going.

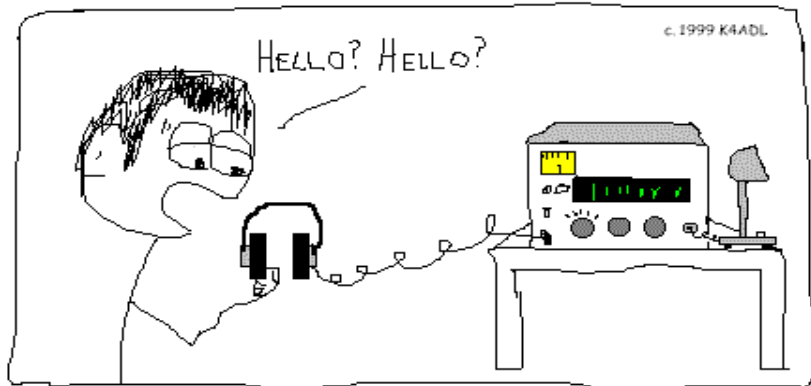
Another way for more exposure to the hobby was to join a radio club, that's when I discovered [Phil-Mont](#) Mobile Radio Club. And what's even better was that the meetings were held locally at Roxborough Memorial Hospital and according to their website; all visitors are welcome.

After attending a couple of meetings and as a result of a few conversations at those meetings I felt better having some

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questions answered. I was told that not all the technical material from the manual would be on the test, just the general information, rules and safety. Besides there are only 35 multiple questions on the exam.

Next was taking the exam. Luckily for me [Phil-Mont has VEs](#) that administer the exam at Community Ambulance Association in Ambler. So on April 26, 2012 I took the exam and much to my delight I passed! Plus if you pass the Technicians exam you are automatically eligible to immediately take the General Class exam. Even though I did not go over any reading material for the General Class license I figured I have nothing to lose by taking it. Needless to say I didn't pass which is fine with me, I was happy that I had a passing grade for the Technician license.



THE TRANSITION FROM SHORT-WAVE-LISTENER TO HAM OPERATOR WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT FOR EDMUND.

On May 1, 2012, I was granted a license and a call sign, KB3YQM. Two months after acquiring the license, I bought a house and had been busy with the move, so I never had a chance to set up or even get on the airwaves. But now that I have settled in I can turn my focus back to ham radio. All I needed was a rig, just wasn't sure what to get. I didn't want anything fancy or expensive since I'm on a limited budget.

Ever try googling ham radio for beginners?

Shop for ham radios for beginners on Google

Sponsored ⓘ	
Ham Radio Starter Kit - M... \$349.99 Buy Two Way...	Wouxun KG-UV3D Du... \$99.99 Powerwerx
75W 2M MOBILE \$177.00 GigaParts.com	ICOM V8000 Mobile Amate... \$306.35 SkyGeek
Icom A6 IC-A6 \$258.95 Banyan Pilot...	

For someone with limited knowledge it can be overwhelming.

When the July's Newsletter, The Blurb, came out there was a Yaesu FT-2800 2 Meter Rig for sale. I contacted Fred KA3IRJ at fred@ksecorp.com asking him if the rig would be good for a beginner to use. He replied "...the FT-2800 is a simple to use basic 2 meter rig and would make a fine starter radio."

So here I am with a Yaesu FT-2800, now what's next? Locate an area in my home dedicated to the radio? Find a power source since it operates on DC power, and I need to find a suitable antenna? The word is that Steve (WU3I) is an aficionado of the antenna world...

This is where I am relying on fellow club members to share their wealth of information as I go from "newbie" to a more experienced Amateur.

**73,
Susan KB3YQM**

You can contact Susan at KB3YQM@aol.com

Phil-Mont Birthdays and Tidbytes

August Birthdays

01 Ralph Germanotta – K3FXR
 02 Tom Bohlander - WA3KLR
 05 Fred Uebelhoer - KA3IRJ
 09 Carolyn Popovic - KA3VLJ
 14 Patricia MacKenzie (XYL W3RED)
 18 Norma Coupe (XYL WA3BXH)
 19 Donna Lynn Larkin -

WA1WYQ (XYL KA2FFP)
 20 Keiko Simon – KB3SJT
 23 Ray Kiesel - K3RIZ
 25 Linda Cantarella (XYL N3DTC)
 27 James Lamont-N3SHM
 30 Vincent Buono - WA3ADI

***The next VE Test Session
 is Thursday evening the
 28th of August @ 7:00***

Did You Know....

“A recent survey of ARRL members, however, indicates that more than 80 percent of those responding are active.”

From The League.....

In the past 40 years, the number of Amateur Radio operators in the US has grown at a remarkable rate:

- December 1971: 285,000
- December 1981: 433,000
- December 1991: 494,000
- December 2001: 683,000
- December 2012: 709,500

Source: Print editions of **Radio Amateur Callbook**. www.ah0a.org/FCC/aphs.html.

Please note: While the number of licensees has grown considerably over the years, we realize that these numbers include some who are no longer active in Amateur Radio. However, a recent survey of ARRL members indicates that more than 80 percent of those responding are active.



DIGITAL PROFESSOR

The PMRC Digital Education Net (DEN)

An overview One of the changes to amateur radio in the last few years has been the growth of new “digital modes” (both keyboard and voice) made available via computer sound capability. All modern desktops and laptops include sound via internal sound chips on the motherboard, or external sound cards via USB ports like the Tigertronics Signalink. Repeaters now offer the choice of analog or digital voice signals. In response to this growth in new digital modes (both voice and keyboard) the Digital Education Net (DEN)



was begun a few years ago, supported by the Board of Directors of PMRC. The mission of the **DEN** is to explore and master these various digital modes and the software which runs them. The DEN occurs every Tuesday evening at 1900 (7PM) local time on the Jim Spencer Memorial two meter repeater with net control stations W3STW (Al Tribble) and K3EUI (Barry Feierman).

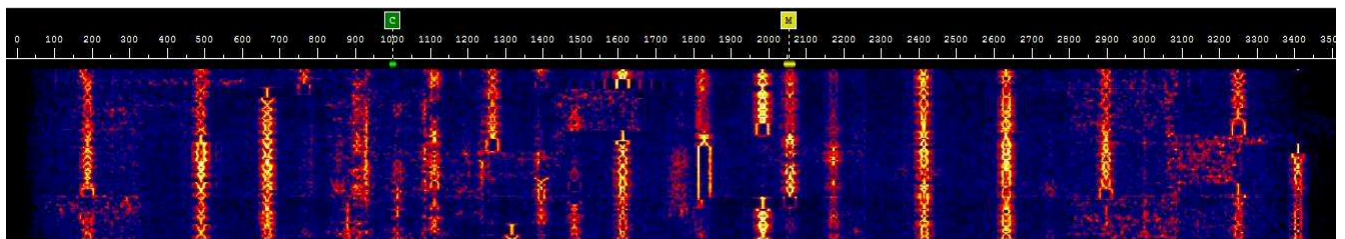
Having access to the FM analog repeater for the DEN allows us to first discuss the digital modes by voice, answer questions about the setup and installation files, and then try the various programs using the FM repeater as our RF platform. Most digital modes work equally well with SSB, AM, or FM. Using the sounds of these digital modes to modulate the 2 meter FM carrier allows easy copy for anyone who can “hear” the 147.03 repeater on their VHF FM rig and has the software loaded and running. To receive digital modes all you need is a shielded audio cable between your SPEAKER OUT or HEADPHONE jack of your radio or HT, connected to your MIC IN jack on your laptop or external sound card (Signalink). No interface is necessary to receive. In fact, for some modes, you can eliminate audio cables and use “acoustic coupling”, holding your computer microphone near your radio’s or HT’s speaker.

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What makes digital modes so interesting? The high speed modes can transfer information (word docs, spreadsheets, pictures) much faster than by voice, approaching over 1000 words per minute, which makes them extremely useful for emergency communications (ARES/RACES). Some modes (Olivia) work well under very marginal HF propagation (QRM,QRN, QSB) where a voice link would fail. JT65 and JT9 work at levels so low that the signal you want is often 20 dB fainter than the noise level. Some modes like JT65 are useful for Earth-Moon-Earth communications, where signals are very weak. And some modes, like JT9, use very little bandwidth (15 Hz) which is becoming more and more precious as the HF bands get overcrowded.

When you listen to the various digital modes on an HF SSB receiver, each mode has its own characteristic sound pattern, much like the unique sound patterns from various musical instruments in an orchestra. Most of us can easily identify the sounds of a trumpet, a clarinet, or a



violin, and after some practice, it is easy to identify the “sounds” of the digital modes. (The following links will give you an idea of what these modes actually sound like. Ed.) RTTY has its characteristic two-tone dwee-dle with the RF (and sound) varying rapidly in pitch between two frequencies (called Mark and Space) separated by 170 Hz. BPSK31 has the “warble” sound which comes from the 31 Hz phase shift, and Olivia sounds more like a carnival calliope, with 4, 8, or 16 tones that blend together to make a rather pleasant sound. Slow-scan television (SSTV) has the swing rhythm of a jitterbug classic, displaying the lines of a picture, one by one, in red/green/blue. Some modes, like MT63, lack any sense of pitch or rhythm, and are quite uncomfortable to listen to for any length of time. JT-65 makes pleasant background noise when working this mode. (Ed.)

Software New software is being developed each year for amateur digital modes, much of it for free or low cost. One goal of the PMRC Digital Education Net is to explore and then master the software which is used to send and receive digital signals. To date, the DEN has explored Digipan, MMSSTV, Audacity, Easy Pal, FLDIGI, FreeDV, WSJT-X, JT65 HF, and Ham Radio Deluxe. We began a few years ago with Digipan, a first of its kind of software which makes use of the

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“waterfall” concept, a display of audio frequencies vs. time on your computer’s monitor. Digipan’s waterfall makes it easy to tune in PSK signals by simply clicking with your mouse on an audio signal on the waterfall. No need to tune or adjust the radio itself, just click on the signal on the waterfall trace on your computer’s monitor, and text appears on your screen. The mode of choice for Digipan (early 1990’s) was the newly created binary phase-shifted signals, more commonly called BPSK. Refinements to the software and improved sound capability led to other excellent programs to decode BPSK designed for Macs, PC’s and other platforms. I now have an app on my Apple Ipad which copies PSK31 by acoustic coupling; that is, the microphone built into my Ipad picks up the audio sounds from my radio’s speaker, and translates those sounds to text on my Ipad. What could be simpler?

Here is a screen shot of Digipan from a 20 meter BPSK31 qso.



CW: the first digital mode There are three ways to “**modulate**” an RF carrier with information: vary the amplitude, vary the frequency, or vary the phase of an RF “carrier”. **So modulation is actually a “mixing” of audio and radio frequencies.** One of the earliest digital modes of radio communication was CW, or more properly called, “on-off keying” (emission type A1). In CW, a carrier (RF signal) is simply turned on and off by a key or keyer circuit of some kind, resulting in

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a radio wave that is actually a double-sideband, amplitude modulated signal. The binary nature of CW (carrier is on or carrier is off), the simplicity of the circuit, and its narrow bandwidth (typically 100 Hz) would lead one to believe that CW should be very easy to send and copy if you can translate the dits and dahs into letters and numbers, hence its popularity. CW is really a form of amplitude modulation, with “sidebands” but rather than using a voice pattern from a microphone to “modulate” the carrier, mixing audio and radio frequencies, the carrier (RF) is simply turned ON-OFF creating the dits and dahs of the Morse language.

But between the dits and dahs heard on a receiver, the listener has to contend with background “noise” on the band, as well as other nearby CW signals, thus making CW difficult to copy under poor conditions. The bandwidth of CW depends on the shape of the keying circuit (the time for the signal to rise from zero amplitude to full amplitude) as well as on the duration of the dits and dahs (wpm). Poorly generated CW, common with early transmitters, results in key “clicks” (too many sidebands) or tone shifts (chirp), resulting in RST reports of something lower than 9 for the T in RST. We all know that CW gets through under marginal propagation, far better than AM or FM phone transmissions when it comes to weak signals and noise. What I find fascinating today is that most of the computer programs available which feature CW as an operating mode copy well-sent CW from 5 wpm to 30 wpm with almost 100% accuracy. So you could, with the proper software, operate CW and get CW qso's even if you don't “copy” Morse in your head, in the same sense that you can operate PSK or RTTY with the computer doing all of the translation of sounds to text on the screen. Rather than sending CW by a key or keyer, you can “send” CW via a keyboard (and many do it this way now) with the software adjusting the “speed” of the dits and dahs.

Over the next few editions of the Blurb, we will explore the various digital modes in depth, including Joe Taylor's JT65, BPSK and MultiPSK, MFSK, Olivia, RTTY, and SSTV. We hope to show photos of the screen traces from various applications, and make available on the web site sound wave files for those who would like to explore these modes in more detail. In the meantime, Al and I encourage PMRC members to [join us on the DEN every Tuesday evening at 7 pm](#) and learn about the capability of radio and computer working together to offer unusual ways of communicating.

Barry can be reached at k3eui@aol.com

Barry Feierman K3EUI

The Master of the Hunt to Speak

The September General Meeting (9/10) will feature a talk on Fox Hunting (RF Direction Finding) by acknowledged FH Expert Jim (K3CHJ) "Master of the Hunt" for the [Pottstown Amateur Radio Club](#).

Jim is the retired V.P. of STV Engineers, a major Civil Engineering firm located near Pottstown, PA. Jim holds a BSCE Degree from Lehigh University, and a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering

from Villanova University. He has for years run a very successful Fox Hunt program for PARC.

Jim will be joined by Byron Garrbrant, President and Founder of Byonics, Inc. a well known manufacturer of Fox Hunt and APRS gear!

In addition, PMRC will be hosting its own Fox Hunt, near our traditional Field Day site. You can find out more about [Fox Hunting at this](#)

[link](#), and if you are interested in getting involved please contact Fred (KA3IRJ) [here](#) or by telephone at 610-310-2877.

The PMRC Fox Hunt will be held in October, and prizes will be awarded for the winner and runner up. The prize for this first hunt will be a [Handi-Finder directional antenna](#), fully assembled and tested by an Electrical Engineer. Don't miss it!



"Jim will be joined by Byron Garrbrant, President and Founder of Byonics, Inc. a well known manufacturer of Fox Hunt and APRS gear!."

It is to Laugh....

Definitions:

Characteristic Impedance

The usual reaction of your spouse when told about the proposed antenna system.

Dummy Load

Ham who climbs the tower without a safety harness.

Speech Processor

A "state of the art" device which permits one to communicate with as many others at the same time as possible.

Matchbox

Device which helps your feed line dissipate heat energy.

You might be a Ham if:

You would rather help your buddy put up a 150 foot tower than mow your own lawn.

Birds refer to your vehicle as "The Grim Reaper."

A Visit to the ARRL Lab

Walking into the [ARRL Lab](#) the first thing you notice is a large rack of NIST traceable test instrumentation used to evaluate gear that is reviewed in QST. And when you talk to the staff there you learn is that the League BUYS all the gear it tests from the same distributors we all patronize. To retain their objectivity, they do not

accept any free equipment from manufacturers. The whole place is predicated on honest and fair evaluations of what comes in the door, and when you read a [QST review](#), you get the data as they've collected it.

In addition to rows of benches covered with projects, microwave antennas, and

other fascinating stuff, the Lab also has a segregated fully equipped workshop where they build and evaluate various homebrew projects. Electronic Experimenters - we have found Nirvana!



Zack Lau K1VT Senior Lab Engineer - Zack is a Graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and lived in Phila.

From the Secretary

VIRTUAL MEETINGS (Email Votes)

While there were no Board or General meetings in July, your Board did have (2) email votes:

- 1) **Motion by President KA3IRJ to hold a Fox Hunt in July and to commit \$75.00 for a Prize**
Seconded by John KB3SYS

Approved (6 Yea, 2 Nay, 2 Abstain)

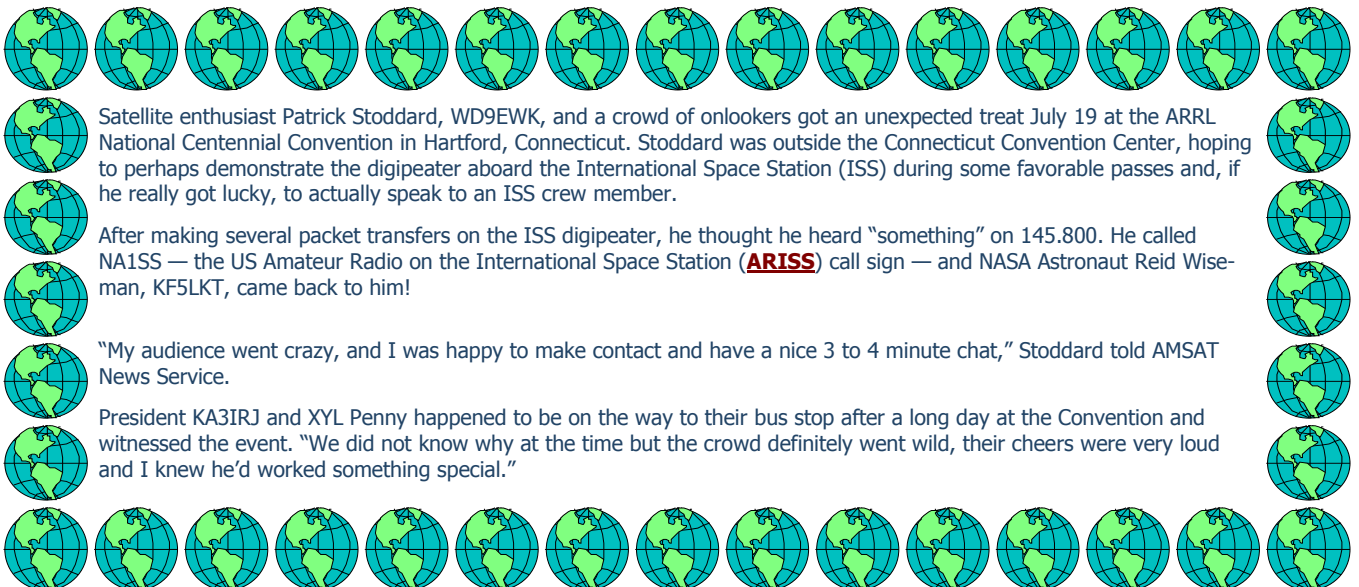
- 2) **Motion by President KA3IRJ to confer Honorary Status to former Member Kay N3KN**
Seconded by Jim (NS3K)

Approved (7 Yea, 1 Nay, 2 Abstain)

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Malone WA3GM *Secretary*

ISS Astronaut Activates ARISS During ARRL National Centennial Convention



Satellite enthusiast Patrick Stoddard, WD9EWK, and a crowd of onlookers got an unexpected treat July 19 at the ARRL National Centennial Convention in Hartford, Connecticut. Stoddard was outside the Connecticut Convention Center, hoping to perhaps demonstrate the digipeater aboard the International Space Station (ISS) during some favorable passes and, if he really got lucky, to actually speak to an ISS crew member.

After making several packet transfers on the ISS digipeater, he thought he heard "something" on 145.800. He called NA1SS — the US Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (**ARISS**) call sign — and NASA Astronaut Reid Wiseman, KF5LKT, came back to him!

"My audience went crazy, and I was happy to make contact and have a nice 3 to 4 minute chat," Stoddard told AMSAT News Service.

President KA3IRJ and XYL Penny happened to be on the way to their bus stop after a long day at the Convention and witnessed the event. "We did not know why at the time but the crowd definitely went wild, their cheers were very loud and I knew he'd worked something special."

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Blurb Contact

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW-PHIL-MONT.ORG

Prez' Sez'



The Best Laid Plans...

Some last minute business travel, a gas leak at home while we were away on it, and unfortunate timing all resulted in my having to miss Field Day this year. It was the first time I missed one since joining PMRC and I was sorely disappointed. The good news was that our local Farm Helper/House Sitter was on the ball and shut down the main gas valve at the tank preventing a conflagration, how-

ever as we are fond of having use of our stove and the dryer this was not a repair job that could wait, especially when you get home from a trip with a suitcase full of dirty laundry!

In other news, more travel followed, this time to Norfolk, VA for a Marine job. In order to do a survey project aboard her we were obliged to scale the 50 foot tall side of an enormous Hopper Dredging Ship located 40 miles offshore in the Atlantic, and in 8-10 foot seas. Let me tell you, if you have not had the experience it can really focus your attention! You grab a rope ladder from the heaving deck of a 70 ft. motor launch, and hope it does not crush you against the side of the ship before you can scramble up the ladder to safety. You can't see anything but a 7 story tall wall of steel rushing up and rising and falling 10 feet in a few seconds, and it is not the kind of maneuver where you get a "do over." Miss Penny made it up and down under her own power,

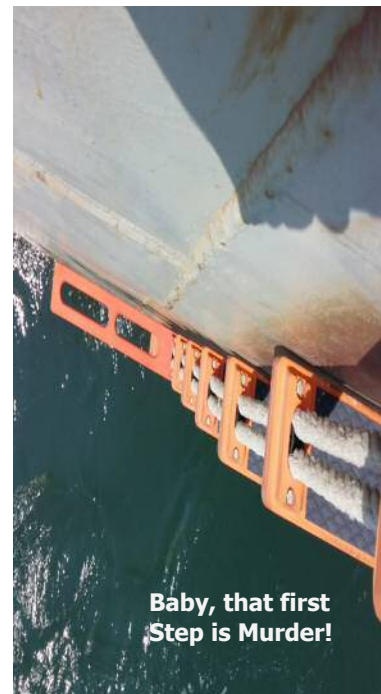
Public Service since 1949

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club is a dedicated group of Amateur Radio Operators with a long and proud heritage of public service, community involvement, and Technical leadership in the Greater Philadelphia area.

Sponsors of the W3QV Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater system we offer analog and digital radio networks that reach the Delaware Valley and beyond. Please feel free to use our machines:

147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz (Analog)

**444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz
(Yaesu DR-1 Analog/Digital)**



but the retrieval was quite the thrill.

But then we had some fun, traveling from Norfolk up to Hartford Connecticut to attend the ARRL

Prez' Sez'

(cont. from Pg. 14)

Centennial Convention. And what a great show it was!

In addition to the stellar list of Speakers and Presenters (including Joe Taylor I might add) the show itself was just a great big Hamfest. One of the things we saw there was the 1964 Collins Factory Demo Van, fully restored and loaded with period Collins gear. Incredible!

A tour of HQ was also on the agenda, as was operating W1AW! And the League's Museum is more than worth the trip if you are into



Missed Field Day this year too? FD 2015 will be held the last full weekend in June (27-28th), so start planning now. Assembling a portable station is neither difficult or expensive for the average Ham, and the experience has many benefits.

If you need help or to learn more about how to get started, [please click this link.](#)

vintage gear. Station Manager Joe Garcia even fired up "Old Betsy" Hiram Percy Maxim's rig stored in the W1AW Station while I was on the air. Talk about broadband noise! Luckily they only transmitted for a few seconds, but it was a thrill actually hearing HPM's rig on the air!

It was very good to see the tremendous enthusiasm and the sheer size of the crowds at the Centennial, and Penny and I were really glad we took the time to attend. Our League is a powerful and well organized ally for every Radio Amateur and it deserves our support. [If you are not an ARRL Member why not consider joining?](#)

In addition to providing effective and well connected legal representation in Washington, and having the political power to make it count, the League has a myriad of resources available to Members. These include, but are certainly not limited to, the new Digital QST, Lab/Technical Support, Legal Services (if you're having trouble getting an antenna approved they can help), and many other benefits.

A strong ARRL is absolutely necessary to the future of Amateur radio; [won't you do your part to insure this great Hobby is there for future generations?](#) Click to Join

In other news, the Board has approved a Phil-Mont sponsored Fox Hunt to be held in October. As soon as the date is set an announcement will go out to all, and I hope you will consider joining in the fun, either as a participant or a spectator.

All you really need to participate is

a 2M HT, and our [September Speaker's](#) presentation will tell you everything you need to know. So why not show up and have a little fun?

The event will be rain or shine, so dress appropriately and make sure you are familiar with safety considerations regarding Fox Hunting.

For anyone who wants to attend, after the Fox hunt I will be hosting a "President's Roundtable" luncheon at a local restaurant. This will just be an informal luncheon and some good Fellowship, however if anyone wants to share their thoughts on future Club projects or other ideas this would be a great opportunity to do so. Please let me know if you plan to attend so we can have a head count.

Finally, I want to again thank all of you who took our Blurb Survey and for those who either sent email, wrote letters, and even sent thank you cards! Your thoughtfulness is truly appreciated, thank you very much.

73, [Fred KA3IRJ](#)



New PMRC Membership

Honorary Member

Kay Cragie N3KN

570 Brush Mountain Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW-PHIL-MONT.ORG

For Sale

1/8" (290#) & 3/16" (380#) Dark Olive Drab Braided Cord · 100% Polyester/Dacron Knit Braided. Nice stuff! Tough and long lasting · UV Resistant and Low Stretch Proudly Made in the U.S.A.! Contact Steve WU3I at wu3i@arrl.net or 215-605-6074

125ft RG-213U w/connectors WA3IFY Jay 215-289-4531

Yaesu FRG-7700 General Coverage Communication Receiver, 150 kHz-29.9 MHz. Good Functional condition, cosmetics 7 of 10, front panel in excellent condition. Recently tested by Extra Class Ham. \$195.00 Shipped to your location. Contact **Fred KA3IRJ at 610-310-2877 or fred@ksecorp.com**

Important Dates to Mark in Your Calendars

2M Net Control Stations for August:

August 3 - KC2PMW

August 10 -W3STW

August 17-KB3IV

August 24-WA3GM

August 31 N3QV

10M Net - W3STW

75M Net - KA3IRJ

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at

Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002

Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact **Jim McCloskey NS3K** at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

ARRL Centennial

The League threw itself one fine Birthday party July 17-20th in Hartford, CT! Celebrating "100 Years of Advancing the Art and Science of Radio," the Centennial was attended by over 3300 Enthusiastic and Committed Amateurs from all over the World.

While visiting HQ in Newington during the Celebration President KA3IRJ worked Phil-Mont Members **Jim N3SHM**, **Bill K3HWG**, **Sam K3GBA**, and **Steve WU3I** from W1AW operating as Special Event Station W100AW.

Joe Taylor K1JT spoke to the Group, as did noted Attorney and DXer **Rick Roderick K5UR**.

There was a great Banquet, held Friday Evening, which was attended by a capacity crowd of over 1100 people.

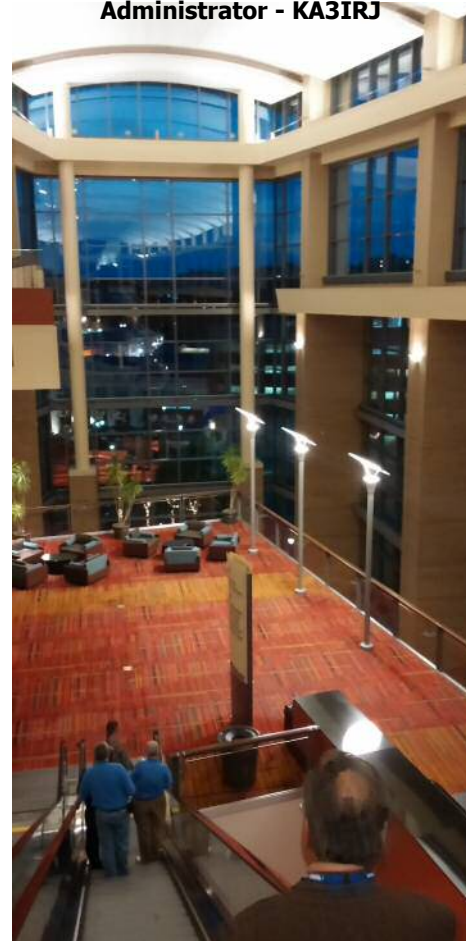
FEMA Administrator **W. Craig Fugate KK4INZ** addressed the Banquet crowd and got a thunderous round of applause when he announced that he had just passed his General!



One More Item Off the Bucket List!



K3ITH – W. Craig Fugate FEMA Administrator - KA3IRJ



Connecticut Convention Center



KA3IRJ and President Kay N3KN



KC3BLA and Sam in Seminar

More Pictures Next Page

ARRL Centennial

In other notable happenings at the Centennial, League President Kay Cragie and FEMA Administrator W. Craig Fugate signed a Memorandum of Agreement to promote better coordination of Amateur Radio Assets during emergencies, and many fine seminars on everything from "DX University" to Raspberry Pi's, to Amateur Radio Leadership were available. The only downside was there was not enough time to hear all the presentations one wanted to.

But what was most impressive was the upbeat and enthusiastic crowds and the ARRL Staff. Everywhere you went you heard conversations about new projects, far flung DXpeditions, efforts to grow Membership, and new Technologies. It was truly an uplifting experience.

All in all we came away from the event secure in the knowledge that our League is full of caring, competent, knowledgeable, and motivated folks who are looking out for all of us.



When W1AW Speaks.....



And Behind Door # 3, We Have a Great Convention!



ARRL Project Fabrication Shop



Huge Show Floor/Hamfest

The Officers

President (KA3IRJ) Fred Uebelhoer Jr. fred@ksecorp.com

Vice President: (W3STW) Al Tribble wstw@juno.com

Treasurer: (NS3K) Jim McCloskey jmccloskey@msn.com

Secretary: (WA3GM) Greg Malone wa3gm@aol.com

For club information:
Contact any club officer,
or call on the repeaters.
Address or club directory
changes and articles for
the membership e-mail list
should be sent to: KA3IRJ

Sunday Morning Net Schedules

- **2 Meter/ 70cm Net**..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater
- **10-on-10 Net** at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (\pm QRM)
- **75 meter Net** at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB

ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater

DIGITAL Net: Tuesdays at 7PM on the W3QV Repeater



All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital**, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128. Early birds usually get a slide show of recent PMRC activities, and refreshments are served.

Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org.

Expanded Digital Education

Tune in to the 147.030 (PL 91.5) repeater every TUESDAY evening at 1900 (7:00PM) for sessions of the Digital Education Net.

We are using sound-card based audio tones, which work well with any analog repeater.

For the past month we have been learning two programs:

JT65- HF written by a guy out in California

JT65/JT9 written by Joe Taylor himself.

Both seem to work well on the FM repeater.

Contact Barry K3EUI for More Information

P.O. BOX 253
SUNBURY, PA 17801

First Class Mail

If you Receive the Blurb via USM, why not try the Digital Blurb with Links and additional content? Please update Your Email Address by sending an Email with "Blurb" in the subject line to fred@ksecorp.com



There Will be No General Meeting in August. The Next Meeting is Wednesday 9/10.